

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0226

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: NEXT MEETING OF ATLANTIC POLICY ADVISORY GROUP (APAG)

REF: USNATO 6227

SUMMARY: DENMARK PROPOSES CHANGING TOPIC OF NEXT APAG MEETING FROM JAPAN TO ENERGY, AND APAG CHAIRMAN KASTL SUGGESTS THAT IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO LET MEETING SLIP UNTIL AUTUMN. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE ON BOTH POINTS IN TIME FOR JANUARY 24 SPC MEETING. END SUMMARY

1. DURING JAN 14 SPC MEETING, DANISH REP (VILLADSEN) STATED THAT COPENHAGEN REGRETTED IT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SERVE AS HOST FOR THE SPRING 1974 APAG MEETING, BUT THAT IT WOULD BE PREPARED TO DO SO FOR THE SPRING 1975 MEETING. HE ALSO NOTED THAT, IN DANISH VIEW, PROPOSED TOPIC CONCERNING JAPAN FALLS LARGELY OUT OF AREA OF IMMEDIATE ALLIED CONCERNS AND THAT, IN VIEW OF OTHER RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING THEM MUCH MORE DIRECTLY, IT SHOULD BE GIVEN A RATHER LOW PRIORITY AT THIS TIME. ALTERNATIVE PROPOSED TOPIC ON ENERGY, HOWEVER, SEEMED MUCH MORE TIMELY. TO UNDERScore ITS PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO ALLIES, HE PROPOSED REFORMULATING TITLE (AS IT APPEARS IN REF A) TO READ "IMPLICATIONS OF THE WORLD ENERGY CRISIS ON ALLIANCE SECURITY."

2. CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT IN VIEW OF DANISH POSITION ON SPRING 1974
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MEETING -- AND SHOULD THERE BE NO OTHER VOLUNTEERS AT THIS TIME -- IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO SLIP SPRING MEETING TO AUTUMN. HE SUGGESTED THAT SPC COME BACK TO QUESTION IN DUE COURSE AFTER CAPITALS HAD REFLECTED ON MATTER.

3. COMMENT: MISSION AGREES WITH DANISH POINT ABOUT GREATER URGENCY OF ENERGY TOPIC, BUT WE WONDER WHETHER ANOTHER INTERNATIONAL STUDY ON THIS QUESTION IN 1974 WOULD BE DESIRABLE, IN LGHT OF THE INTENSIVE WORK UNDERWAY IN VARIOUS FORUMS, INCLUDING WORK IN THE NATO ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ON THE "WORLD OIL CRISIS AND THE ALLIANCE." ON THE OTHER HAND, APAG DOES PROVIDE A FORUM IN WHICH POLICY PLANNERS FROM ALLIED CAPITALS COULD DISCUSS THE LONGER-TERM IMPLICATIONS OF THE ENERGY PROBLEM. ON THE BASIS OF THIS DISCUSSION AND NATIONAL PAPERS, APAG CHAIRMAN KASTL WOULD PRODUCE A WRITTEN REPORT FOR REVIEW BY THE COUNCIL. US WILL NEED TO DECIDE, AGAINST THE BACK DROP OF WORK GOING ON ELSEWHERE, WHETHER SUCH AN ACTIVITY WOULD BE A BETTER USE OF THE NEXT APAG MEETING THAN WOULD A MEETING ON "THE PLACE OF JAPAN IN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ALLIANCE," A SUBJECT TO WHICH THE ALLIANCE HAS DEVOTED LITTLE CONCENTRATED ATTENTION.

4. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE KNOWING WHETHER WASHINGTON HAS A STRONG PREFERENCE FOR A SPRING MEETING -- IN WHICH CASE WE WOULD URGE KSASTL TO PURSUE HIS SEARCH FOR A SITE -- OR WHETHER WE COULD GO ALONG WITH A MAJORITY IN FAVOR OF A FALL MEETING INSTEAD.
END COMMENT. RUMSFELD

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